

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 NEA-10 AF-10 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-07 H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2763

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST

1. GOVERNMENT STATEMENT PUBLISHED CENTRAL PRESS OCTOBER 8
CONDEMNS ISRAELI "EXPANSIONIST POLICY" AND SUPPORTS ARAB DEMANDS
FOR LIBERATION OF TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967. BUT, IN
CONTRAST TO INITIAL SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT REACTING TO
1967 WAR, THE PRESENT STATEMENT DOES NOT RPT NOT SPEAK OF
RESERVING SOVIET RIGHT TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES.

2. ALTHOUGH STATEMENT PLACES FULL BLAME ON ISRAEL FOR
SITUATION LEADING TO FLAREUP, IT STOPS JUST SHORT OF DIRECTLY
ACCUSING ISRAEL OF ATTACKING FIRST. INSTEAD IT NOTES RECENT
ISRAELI CONCENTRATION OF FORCES ALONG CEASEFIRE LINE AND CALL-UP
OF RESERVISTS. IT ASSERTS THAT BY THESE ACTIONS ISRAEL HEATED
UP SITUATION AND "UNLEASHED MILITARY ACTIVITIES," BUT IT
REFRAINS FROM REPEATING SOVIET NEWS STORY CLAIMS THAT ISRAEL
ATTACKED ARABS.

3. MEASURED TONE OF STRONG POLITICAL SUPPORT COMBINED WITH
ARMS-LENGTH ATTITUDE TOWARD INVOLVEMENT CAN BE SEEN IN BRIEF

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REFERENCE TO ME SITUATION OBVIOUSLY TACKED ON TO OCTOBER 8

PRAVDA ARTICLE BY DEFENSE MINISTER GRECHKO. GRECHKO TERMS CONFLICT "DIRECT CONSEQUENCE" OF ISRAELI EXPANSIONIST POLICY AND MILITARY PROVOCATIONS, BUT HE TOO BEGS THE QUESTION OF WHO ATTACKED WHOM. SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUSLY, BUT IN TERMS WE WOULD REGARD AS DOVISH FOR GRECHKO, HE GOES ON TO CALL ON PEACELOVING PEOPLES TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST INTRIGUES OF ENEMIES OF PEACE AND TO EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT WAR FROM BREAKING OUT IN ANY CORNER OF THE WORLD.

4. NEITHER GOVERNMENT STATEMENT NOR SOVIET PRESS GIVES INDICATION OF SOVIET TACTICS IN UN, AND WE ASSUME AT THIS STAGE USSR IS TAKING ITS CUE FROM EGYPT.
DUBS

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